

cancer patients before final drug approval is granted here in the United States.

Third, we propose that cancer patients be better represented in FDA advisory meetings. These committees play a major role in policy and product decisions. And cancer patients who have valuable insights and the most at stake should be at the table when these decisions are made.

Fourth, we propose fewer applications for additional uses of approved cancer drugs. Often, these applications are for uses the drug maker does not even intend to market. By cutting out these unnecessary applications, we will free investigators from paperwork and allow them to devote more time to cancer research.

These four steps are the results of listening to patients, to their families, to their advocates, to the pharmaceutical industry, the doctors, and the researchers. This initiative shows what we can do when we work together.

Since 1938, our Nation has looked to the FDA to protect and improve the public health by making sure that medicines we take help us, not harm us. Our commitment to safety must never waver. Under Commissioner David Kessler, the FDA has reinforced that commitment while working to speed drug approval in the right way. In 1987 it took an average of 33 months to approve new drug applications. In 1994 96 percent of new drug applications were acted on within 12 months.

On AIDS drugs the United States was the first to approve five of the six antiviral treatments for the disease. The most recent of these drugs was approved in 42 days, a record. And the FDA has been the first to approve new drugs for ovarian cancer, for lymphocytic leukemia, for cystic fibrosis, for multiple sclerosis, for Lou Gehrig's disease and Alzheimer's. Under Dr. Kessler, more than ever, the FDA is a place where advance science and common sense work together for the American people.

Now using the principles of the National Performance Review, we have an opportunity to help more Americans conquer cancer. These four steps will make a big difference, and we are glad to give them to the American people today.

Now I'd like to ask the Vice President to come up here and talk just a few moments about the reinventing of these regulations, how we did it, what we hope will happen. And let me say, again, how grateful I am to Secretary Shalala, to Dr. David Kessler, and to the Vice President, and to all the other good people at FDA. We can keep our people safe and save more lives, and that's exactly what we're determined to do.

Thank you, God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Stacy Oller, who introduced the President.

Proclamation 6876—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 1996

March 29, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In looking forward to the 21st century, we recognize that excellence in education is the key to our Nation's future. At a time when we face difficult choices about how best to strengthen that future, our commitment to meaningful education for our youth must remain absolutely firm—we have a profound obligation to put children's needs first and to make the essential investments that will help them succeed.

Throughout his distinguished life, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson was an advocate for the high-quality education and strong values young people need to become productive and caring citizens. Drawing on a deep tradition of faith and a dedication to strengthening family and community ties, the Lubavitcher Rebbe sought to help our youth become responsible leaders and moral thinkers.

On this day and throughout the year, let us join parents, teachers, and concerned people everywhere who are following Rabbi Schneerson's example by empowering young people with essential skills and knowledge. By nurturing their minds and spirits together, we can help our children to embrace all of the exciting challenges ahead.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 31, 1996, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I call upon educators, volunteers, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:55 a.m., April 1, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 2.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Cincinnati, OH, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Columbus. In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

March 25

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond W. Kelly to be Under Secretary for Enforcement at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate David C. Halsted as Ambassador to Chad, Tibor Nagy, Jr., as Ambassador to Guinea, Charles O. Cecil as Ambassador to Niger, and Wendy Jean Chamberlin as Ambassador to Laos.

March 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Palisades, NY. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nancy J. Bloch, Carl G. Lewis, and James J. Weisman to the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Nicholas C. Burckel to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mady Wechsler Segal and Carroll W. Conn, Jr., to the U.S. Military Academy Board of Visitors.

March 28

The President announced his intention to nominate Johnny H. Hayes as a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

March 29

In the afternoon, the President met with President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that the President will visit the Republic of Korea on April 16.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 25

James E. Hall, of Tennessee, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of 2 years (reappointment).

Raymond W. Kelly, of New York, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, vice Ronald K. Noble, resigned.